

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 266030

LIMDIS

FOL REPEAT STATE 266030 SENT ACTION NEW DELHI
UATHMANDU WELLINGTON CANBERRA SYDNEY INFO STOCKHOLM
MANILA NAIROBI LONDON CALCUTTA MELBOURNE NOV 11

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 266030

LIMDIS

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TAGS: CVIS, PINS, IN, AS, NZ, US

SUBJECT: ANANDA MARG

REF: (A) WELLINGTON 3296 (NOTAL); (B) STOCKHOLM 5646

1. TOM BAREFOOT, ANANDA MWRG INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS
DIRECTOR, HAS BEEN IN TOUCH WITH DEPARTMENT SEVERAL TIMES
IN RECENT DAYS. HE HAS GIVEN US A LETTER FROM ANANDA MARG
WORLD HEADQUARTERS IN DENVER DISAVOWING RESPONSIBILITY FOR
THE WELLINGTON INCIDENT (CONSPIRACY BY FOUR MARG MEMBERS
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TO BLOW UP THE INDIAN HIGH COMMISSION THERE). WE INFORMED

BAREFOOT THAT WE HAD SUSPENDED ACTION ON VISAS FOR ANANDA MARG MEMBERS WHILE WE STUDIED CREDENTIALS OF ORGANIZATION IN LIGHT OF THE WELLINGTON EPISODE. BAREFOOT, WHO HAD ALREADY MADE AIR RESERVATIONS FOR NOVEMBER 13 FOR THE TWO IV MARGI MONK APPLICANTS IN KATHMANDU, TOOK NEWS CALMLY AND AGAIN DESCRIBED NEW ZEALAND INCIDENT AS "HEARTBREAKING". ADDITIONALLY, WE INFORMED BAREFOOT ABOUT NIV REFUSAL TO MARG APPLICANT IN STOCKHOLM (REF B). HE EXPRESSED SURPRISE AT NEWS SINCE HE HAD EXPECTED TO BE AWARE OF ALL MARG APPLICATIONS FOR U.S. VISAS.

2. BAREFOOT SAID THAT HE HAD RECEIVED SOME INFORMATION

ON THE WELLINGTON EPISODE THROUGH MARG CHANNELS. HE REPORTED THAT ONE OF THE FOUR MEN CONVICTED WAS A "YOUNG ITALIAN" NAMED ACHARYA KASHYAPA. (FYI: ACHARYAS -- "LEADERS" -- ARE ORDAINED MEMBERS OF THE MARG'S PRIESTHOOD. LIKE OTHER MARGIS, THEY HAVE RELIGIOUS NAMES BESTOWED ON THEM BY FOUNDER P.R. SARKAR OR OTHERS IN THE MARG HIERARCHY. ACHARYA KASHYAPA'S REAL NAME IS BELIEVED TO BE COCILIO FABRIZIO.) BAREFOOT CLAIMED THAT MARG WORLD HQ IN DENVER IS MOVING TO REVOKE KASHYAPA'S "ACHARYASHIP".

3. JON HOFFMAN, THE AMERICAN MARG OFFICIAL EXPELLED BY NEW ZEALAND (REF A) IS, ACCORDING TO BAREFOOT, DE FACTO MARG LEADER FOR AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND. HE HAS BEEN BASED IN SYDNEY FOR ABOUT TWO YEARS. FROM BAREFOOT'S ACCOUNT, IT WOULD APPEAR THAT MARG MEMBERSHIP IN THE TWO COUNTRIES IS SMALL: PERHAPS TWO DOZEN IN NEW ZEALAND AND ABOUT 100 IN AUSTRALIA. BAREFOOT TOLD US THAT DENVER HQ IS DESPATCHING IMMEDIATELY A FEMALE AMERICAN ACHARYA TO CONDUCT A "FIRST-HAND" INVESTIGATION OF THE WELLINGTON INCIDENT IN NEW ZEALAND AND AUSTRALIA. HE DID NOT VOLUNTEER HER NAME.

4. REGARDING THE MARG ORGANIZATION, ALTHOUGH MARG FOUNDER P.R. SARKAR IS ABLE TO SEND OUT ORGANIZATIONAL INSTRUCTIONS THROUGH HIS LAWYERS WHO VISIT HIM IN JAIL FROM TIME TO TIME, MOST IMPORTANT DECISIONS, BAREFOOT CONFIDENTIAL

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SAID, ARE NOW MADE BY GENERAL SECRETARY YATIISHVARANANDA IN DENVER. (YATIISHVARANANDA HAS BEEN A RESIDENT ALIEN IN U.S. SINCE 1972.) SARKAR'S EXECUTIVE GROUP IN INDIA, THE "COUNCIL OF ACHARYAS", HAS BEEN IN DISARRAY SINCE THE JUNE/JULY GOI CRACKDOWN, AND YATIISHVARANANDA HAS EVIDENTLY FORMED HIS OWN COUNCIL IN DENVER.

5. THE MARG IS ATTEMPTING TO CONVINCE THE GOI TO ALLOW

IT TO SEND OBSERVERS TO SARKAR'S TRIAL, REPORTEDLY SCHEDULED TO BEGIN NOVEMBER 22 IN PATNA. BAREFOOT SAID THAT THERE HAD SO FAR BEEN NO RESPONSE FROM THE GOI. HOWEVER, THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION OF JURISTS HAS AGREED TO SEND AN OBSERVER. ACCORDING TO BAREFOOT, PROMINENT ENGLISH LAWYER SIR DINGLE FOOT, A FORMER U.K. SOLICITOR GENERAL AND M.P., HAS AGREED TO GO TO INDIA IF HIS SCHEDULE PERMITS.

6. FOR WELLINGTON: IN ORDER TO PURSUE USG REVIEW OF THE ANANDA MARG, WE WOULD LIKE TO HAVE DETAILED REPORT AND, IF AVAILABLE, TRANSCRIPT OF TRIAL OF MARGIS. IT IS PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT THAT WE HAVE SPECIFIC CHARGES ON WHICH THEY WERE CONVICTED. KISSINGR

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